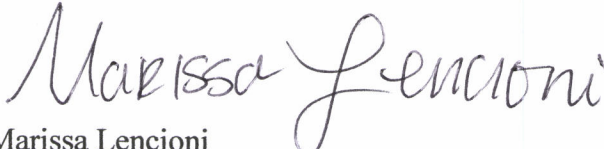


SENATE NATURAL RESOURCESExhibit No. 2Date 2/16/15Bill No. SB 218

Mr. Chairmen, Members of the Committee, and Staff:

Thank you for the opportunity to let me testify. Some of my earliest memories are of enjoying Montana's public lands and waters. Over the past few years I have grown to appreciate and love the smith river, and the experiences I have had at the smith river are experiences and treasured memory's that cannot be bought. I have been very blessed to have spent valuable time relaxing by the pristine smith river with my family and friends. This past fall, I spent some time researching water quality in and around Yellowstone Park during a school biology trip I was chosen to be a part of. The comparison of a few rivers outside of the park to a few rivers inside the park really exemplified how the quality and pristineness of a river has effect on the fish and other macro invertebrates. This proposed mine on the sheep creek has to capability of ruining an amazing treasure only the state of Montana holds, Smith River. I have read and understand that the company proposing the mine is insuring us that no damage will come to the smith river, but due to the location and sulfide-ore body of the area, there could be much more damage than other copper mines. In a case like this we need to be proactive, not reactive; history shows us that there are absolutely no guarantees when it comes to mining industries. Gambling with the trust of mining company's is not a risk we as Montanans are not willing to take when it comes to such a natural resource as a smith river. The future of the smith river is in our hands, it cannot speak for itself and we need to stand up for it and make sure the river's future is insured for my generations and generations to come. Therefore I am in full support of senate bill 218.

Thank you for your time,


Marissa Lencioni

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